BIOS

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists • September 2002 Volume 17 • Number 3

ALBERTA REGULATION 120/2002

Alberta Regulation 120/2002 Professional Biologists Regulation marks another historic day in the history of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists. Enacted under the Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act, the new Regulation replaces AR 63/91 which has governed the ASPB since 1991.

Province of Alberta
Order in Council

O.C. 284/2002
JUN 25 2002

ORDER IN COUNCIL

Approved and ordered:

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor in Council orders as follows:

(a) that the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists continues to be registered as a professional association under the name Alberta Society of Professional Biologists,

(b) that the professional title and the abbreviations of title that may be used exclusively by the association and its members continue to be "Professional Biologists", "P. Biol." and "P. Biol", respectively,

(c) that section 76 of the Universities Act does not apply with respect to the academic requirements for registration as a member of the association.

ACTING CHAIR

Work on the new Regulation began in 1999. Initially, the changes were meant to accommodate changes in the functions of the Universities Coordinating Council. As time progressed, the Society was able to redefine the definition of biological sciences and the scope of practice, registration qualifications, and clarify the functions of committees. During the reviews, changes were incorporated to ensure the new Regulation met POARA and changes to this Act.

The resulting new Regulation incorporates many of the concerns raised by members and external stakeholders received during a lengthy consultation period. These changes resulted in a superior Regulation that is intended to guide the ASPB in the future.

The Society has several tasks to complete and implement now that the Regulation is in force. Internal procedures of the Society are defined in the Society's bylaws. These have been reviewed and revised to meet the Regulation and will be implemented once endorsed by the membership. All of the ASPB committees defined by the Regulation will review their mandate and procedures. Where necessary, new procedures will be developed and endorsed by the ASPB Board prior to implementation.

The result of these efforts will be a well run Society that serves to protect the public and its members. To obtain a copy of the new Regulation visit the Queen's Printer website at http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca/documents/regs/2002_120.cfm

continued on page 6

In This Issue

Alberta Regulation 120/2002 1
Member News 2
Defending Biologists 3
Bios Bits 4
Earth Summit 5
Earth Summit cont'd 6
EPDC Seminars 7
Professional Development 8

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BIOS is written for the enjoyment of the members of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists and those interested in the field of professional biology. Articles or comments are welcomed and should be communicated to the ASPB Office. Editing and layout by Gavin More, 49 NORTH Creative Learning and Training.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Regular: J. Brett Allen, Megan Cooley, Kyle Davis, Karen Dunmall, Tara-Leigh Eggiman, Craig Fazakas, Stephen Glendinning, Melynda Johnson, W. Scott MacNeill, Maria Sotiropoulos, Louise Versteeg, Leanne Zrum

Biologist In Training: Simon Geoghegan, Allan Goosney, Doug Macaulay, Janice Meier, Neil Mochnacz, Darren Rath, Curtis Clements, Kei Lo

Student: Laurie Hamilton

Membership Update

ASPB membership as of September 30, 2002: **Total 506**

Regular	410	Biologist in Training	44	Inactive	32
Student	6	Retired	4	Honorary	6
Scholarship	2	Public Member	1		

2001 ASPB Conference Proceedings

The Cumulative Environmental Effects Management Proceedings are now available through the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists office. The cost of the 487 page soft cover book is $40.00 which includes postage and handling within Canada. If you would like a copy of the book please contact the office at 780-434-5765 or by email at aala@aala.ab.ca with your address and form of payment. Payment must be received prior to shipping.

EPDC SEMINAR SURVEY

Of the 33 respondents, the majority (94%) attend seminars for educational purpose. 56% of respondents attend seminars to network and meet new career contacts. The other 2 choices for attending seminars - socializing and getting reacquainted were around 40% each.

EPDC seminars have been in three formats: biological, professional (leadership, presentation skills), and a mixture of both. About 70% of respondents chose biological themes as their first choice for seminars. However, 73% of the respondents stated they thought that the current format was like a social event. When asked if the events should have more of a social element 75% said yes.

See page 7 for the latest on the EPDCs efforts and seminar schedule.

Defending Professional Biologists

June 6, 2002

Honourable Clint Dunford
Minister Alberta Human Resources and Development

On behalf of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB), I am writing to inquire if the Government of Alberta would entertain the proposition, while filling biological positions for public service, of hiring individuals who are qualified to meet or exceed the standards of competence and ethics set by the ASPB for the practice of biology in Alberta.

The ASPB is registered under the Professional and Occupational Associations Registrations Act (POARA) and the Professional Biologists Regulation. As a regulated society, we are required to ensure the professional competence of our members. However, it is not only in our regulations, as legislated by POARA, but also in our mission that professional conduct be adhered to by practitioners in biology, or more specifically, by members of our society. The ASPB advocates competence and ethics in biology because it serves the public by minimizing the risk of poor practice and it serves our profession by ensuring a good and trustworthy reputation for biologists.

The ASPB represents about 500 biologists, who are employed in government, industry, consulting, education, and enforcement. While we do not request that all biologists join our society out of necessity, we do suggest that our standards of competence and ethics as prescribed in our Regulations, and legislated under POARA, be used as a benchmark by the Government of Alberta in assessing the qualifications of biologists that are hired for public service. If you agree with this direction, I would be pleased to discuss with your staff ways that this could be accomplished. For example, one option could be to require that advertisements for biological positions simply state that the incumbent should be qualified to meet the standards set by the ASPB.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Judy Bennett, M.N.R.M., P.Biol.
President, ASPB

July 17, 2002

Honourable Mike Cardinal
Minister Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

The Alberta Association of Professional Biologists (ASPB), has become aware of recent negative comments about biologists that have been attributed to you. The incident we refer to relates to your lifting of the ban on sport fishing in Calling Lake, Alberta. The ban had been placed on the lake by biologists who based their conclusions on scientific information. You are reputed to have said that, having lived at the lake for some time, you know more about the fish in the lake than do biologists.

We quite understand that such comments often are made on the spur of the moment, and may not reflect the speaker's true feelings. Also, we do not know enough about the situation to comment on any possible relationship between your action and the location of some of your property. Instead, what troubles us is the disregard of the information obtained by your own biological staff acting under legislation for which you are responsible.

As a professional body, the ASPB's role has been to ensure that public decision makers are fully informed of the biological consequences of their decisions by competent Professional Biologists. Your comment has put in question the competence and ethics of professional biologists whose professional conduct is regulated under the Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act (POARA). As the only society for biologists that is registered under provincial laws, the ASPB restricts its membership to trained Professional Biologists. With this incident you have questioned the efficacy of professional organizations registered in Alberta under POARA, which have a responsibility to ensure the competence and ethics of their members. The Alberta Human Resources Department has been working diligently with POARA regulated organizations to ensure that the public is protected from incompetent and unethical conduct of individuals who uncritically claim knowledge. Comments such as the one attributed to you, have the potential to compromise this work.

Sustainable Resource Development, as suggested by the name of your department, involves making decisions regarding complex relationships among life forms, their habitats, and human development is increasingly in need of professional input. We have heard other ministers declare that the Alberta Government is future oriented. We would like to see that attitude expressed in the techniques used in resource management. In our opinion, ignoring professionals is not futuristic, and does not represent the true intent of our elected government.

This information is provided to you in the spirit of assistance. We trust that you will regard it in the spirit in which it is given, and we thank you in advance for your attention to our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Bennett, M.N.R.M., P.Biol.
President, ASPB

ALBERTA SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

DM02 RM-0041

August 26, 2002

Ms. Judy Bennett, President
Alberta Society of Professional Biologists
P.O. Box 21104
Edmonton, Alberta
T6R 2V4

Dear Ms. Bennett:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing concerns about how the profession of biology is regarded in my Ministry. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

I assure you that biologists are a highly regarded group of specialists in Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. Managers in the department rely upon these knowledgeable staff and their dedicated efforts in resource management.

Making use of professional biological advice is essential in this department where we have the responsibility for ensuring that public resources can be used in a sustainable way to meet provincial objectives. This is true whether it refers to fish, moose, forests or public grazing land. Our job is to balance the need for conservation with the allocation of these resources for use.

As a professional association that includes a number of consulting biologists in resource fields, the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists has many members who must deal with some of the same considerations for balance as we do in government. I look forward to your input as professionals toward sustainable practices in resource use.

Thank you for providing your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Cardinal
Minister
MLA, Athabasca-Wabasca Constituency

320 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 Telephone 780 415-4805 Fax 780 427-4935

Printed on recycled paper

Bios Bits

New Flora of Alberta--an Update

It has been almost twenty years since the publication of the second edition of the "Flora of Alberta" by Dr. John Packer. Several new plants have been discovered since that time and in addition, many of our taxa have undergone changes due to advances in taxonomy. Several of our species have been split into two or more entities while others have been lumped together. As a result, the names of many species have changed. It is apparent that a new flora is needed for the province to incorporate these new discoveries and changes.

Dr. John Packer and I are currently working on a new Flora for the province and want to ensure that the information contained within this new work is as complete and up to date as possible. If you have discovered a new species for Alberta or have found one that is considerably out of range, we would like to hear from you.

Please submit information including the name of the species, where and when it was found, by whom and where the specimen or photograph is deposited to me, Joyce Gould, at the Department of Renewable Resources, 751 General Services Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2H1, ajgould@ualberta.ca or joyce.gould@gov.ab.ca.

Albertans & Climate Change

TAKING ACTION Albertans & Climate Change: Taking Action outlines Alberta's goals, targets and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the province. Alberta's action plan focuses on improving energy efficiency, enhancing how we use technology to control industrial emissions, seeking out new environmentally friendly sources of energy, and better managing our emissions today and in the future.

The highlights of Alberta's action plan on climate change are: taking immediate action on climate change; working collaboratively on partnerships; and making strategic investments that help Alberta address climate change and continue to develop a competitive Alberta economy. Read the highlights of Alberta's action plan or download the full plan at http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/climate/actionplan/index.html

Introduction to Conservation Biology

Planet Earth is currently experiencing an extinction crisis with 50 per cent of all living species projected to be extinct by the end of the 21st century. In this course, we explore the ecological and anthropogenic processes threatening biodiversity, and look at conservation tactics to deal with them. We'll also discuss area-versus species-based conservation and strategies for ecological restoration.

Dates: Wednesdays, October 30, November 6 and 13

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Cost: $99

To register phone 232-9300 or visit the Calgary Zoo Ticket area in the Karsten Discovery Centre (9:00 am - 5:00 pm).

Environmental Assessment: A Primer for Industry

Together with key industry representatives and federal departments, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency developed A Primer for Industry to help and simplify the environmental assessment process for private sector and industry professionals.

This guide provides details about:

- what is an environmental assessment;
- the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act;
- how to determine if the Act applies to a project;
- how to identify the key steps in a federal environmental assessment process;
- how to prepare for public consultations.

It also provides information about training sessions offered by the Agency as well as links to references and federal departments.

For a copy of the primer visit http://www.ec.gc.ca/EnviroZine/english/issues/25/feature2_e.cfm

El Niño

The latest El Niño is expected to bring a milder winter to most parts of southern Canada and possibly drier conditions to the prairies. Environment Canada climatologists have confirmed that an El Niño is now underway and Canada should begin to experience its influence by December. Past El Niños have typically brought milder winters to most of Southern Canada and dryer conditions to the prairies.

Even a moderate El Niño will likely bring a milder winter to Canada. This could mean less snow and an increase in insect pests and diseases that are normally kept in check by lengthy cold spells. Milder weather may also have a negative effect on the winter recreation industries in Canada, and could contribute to the melting of ice roads in Northern Canada, restricting access to remote communities.

Source: The Green Lane, Web sitehttp://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2002/021009_n_e.htm

Earth Summit

Progress in implementing sustainable development has been extremely disappointing since the 1992 Earth Summit. What the United Nations General Assembly wanted from the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.(WSSD) was not a new philosophical or political debate but rather, a summit of actions and results.

As an implementation-focused Summit, Johannesburg did not produce a particularly dramatic outcome - there were no agreements that will lead to new treaties. The Johannesburg Summit did lay the groundwork for action through setting targets, timetables and commitments. However, there was no magic and no miracle - only the realization that practical and sustained steps were needed to address many of the world's most pressing problems.

Johannesburg also marked a major departure from previous UN conferences in many ways, in structure and in outcome, that could have a major effect on the way the international community approaches problem solving in the future.

For the first time, outcome documents were not the sole product of the Summit. While the negotiations still received the lion's share of attention, the Summit also resulted in the launch of more than 300 voluntary partnerships, each of which will bring additional resources to support efforts to implement sustainable development. These partnerships, tied to the government commitments, provide a built-in mechanism to ensure implementation.

"Johannesburg gives us a solid basis for implementation and action to go forward," Summit Secretary-General Nitin Desai said. "Although the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation is only some 50 pages long, in many ways it is more targeted and more focused than Agenda 21. We have agreed on global priorities for action and we have agreed to take action."

Commitments were made in Johannesburg - on expanding access to water and sanitation, on energy, improving agricultural yields, managing toxic chemicals, protecting biodiversity and improving ecosystem management - not only by governments, but also by NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and businesses, who launched over 300 voluntary initiatives.

Follow-through on these commitments will be the yardstick of success or failure, according to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. "We invited the leaders of the world to come here and commit themselves to sustainable development, to protecting our planet, to maintaining the essential balance and to go back home and take action. It is on the ground that we will have to test how really successful we are. But we have started off well. Johannesburg is a beginning. I am not saying Johannesburg is the end of it. It is a beginning."

By any indication, there was substantial interest in the Summit. One hundred world leaders addressed the Summit and all in all, more than 22,000 people participated in WSSD, including more than 10,000 delegates, 8,000 NGOs and representatives of civil society, and 4,000 members of the press.

"We knew from the beginning of the Johannesburg process that the Summit would not produce any new treaties or any single momentous breakthrough," Desai said. "But the results of the Summit have been far more comprehensive than any previous outcome. We have put together not only a work plan, but we have identified the actors who are expected to achieve results."

"People forget that there was no agreement on energy at Rio and issues such as production and consumption almost did not make it into Agenda 21, and - although it did - it was only a very general statement. At Johannesburg, we agreed on a 10-year programme on production and consumption, a concept that not only will affect the developing countries, but the development of the richer countries as well."

"We have also achieved a high level of specificity in the outcome document, particularly with regards to the targets and timetables," Desai said. "I know some may have wanted more, but fulfilling these commitments will require new and additional resources."

Desai also cited the partnerships as an important outcome of the Summit. "One of our major challenges is making sustainable development go to scale, to make something that has worked in a dozen places work in a thousand places." Desai said the partnerships offer a way to get away from the donor-driven frameworks of the past, and allow representatives from developed and developing countries to sit down together to formulate plans when something has to be done.

The Johannesburg Summit Test
What Will Change?

Some important new targets established were:

- to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity;
- to maintain or restore depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield on an urgent basis and where possible by 2015;
- to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015; and
- to use and produce chemicals by 2020 in ways that do not lead to significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

Earth Summit continued

"Some people have said that the partnerships are corporate-led," Desai said. "This is not true. The vast majority are led by non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations. But even if there is corporate involvement, that is not a bad thing. We will not be credible if we don't have the participation of business. We need to bring the energy of corporations into our agenda if we are going to make good on our commitments."

Not everyone was pleased with the outcome of Johannesburg, particularly some NGOs who felt the Summit did not go far enough in setting targets for increasing the use of renewable energies. Jonathan Lash, World Resources Institute President, said, "We have missed an opportunity to increase energy production from non-polluting sources like solar, biomass, and wind, and to provide the many companies taking action to reduce emissions with a secure framework for their actions."

Non-negotiated partnerships in sustainable development aimed at implementing Agenda 21 proved to be an important outcome of the Summit. They supplement the commitments agreed to by Governments through the inter-governmental process. The 228 Partnerships posted, thus far, on the WSSD website address all critical areas of sustainable development in all regions of the world.

A considerable amount of funding has been committed in a rather short time, and much more will be mobilized by these investments. Many partnerships are still evolving and require more partners and funding, but the concept is attracting great interest from most stakeholders. It is important to continue to build on the momentum created by the Summit, since Partnership initiatives can contribute significantly to the implementation of sustainable development at all levels.

For ease of reference, the Partnerships for Sustainable Development have been organized on this website into a number of categories. Click on the cluster headings to see Partnership initiatives that have matched the Guiding Principles. Where a project fits into more than one cluster, a link can be found to each relevant page.

To add your partnership proposal to this website, please complete the information sheet and submit it to the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development. The submission of Partnership proposals is an ongoing process; there is no deadline.

The submission of Partnership proposals is an ongoing process and there is no deadline. Please complete the information sheet and send it via e-mail to: Ms. Monika Linn (linnm@un.org). If the Partnership initiative matches the guiding principles, it will be uploaded on this website, with the aim to facilitate the exchange of information and the creation of new partnerships.

Source: Modified from

www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/sustainable_dev/sustainable_dev.html

PROFESSIONAL BIOLOGIST REGULATION

JUL 2 2002

ALBERTA
HUMAN RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT

Office of the Minister

July 18, 2002

Ms. Judy Bennett
President
Alberta Society of Professional Biologists
Box 21104
Edmonton, AB T6R 2V4

Dear Ms. Bennett:

I am pleased to confirm that the new *Professional Biologists Regulation*, under the *Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act*, has been approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Copies of Order in Council #284/2002 and #286/2002 are attached for your records.

The cooperation of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists in the development of this regulation was very much appreciated and I commend your Association on the representation provided by Mr. Gavin Moore. Continued best wishes.

Cordially,

Clint Dunford
Minister

Attachments

When Jeannette Nixon, Bonnie Holtby and I met with representatives of Alberta Human Resources and Trade on September 27, 1999, the society was requested to modify our 1991 Regulation to adjust for changes in academic review and the opportunity to make minor changes. Initially, the time frame was 2 to 3 months. Little did we know that this process would take several years and many drafts. Little did the government representatives realize that legal counsel would also find many problems between the Act and our regulation. In the end, though, our Society has a considerably improved and cleaner regulation upon which the Society will manage the affairs of the Society. While the new Regulation will not last forever, it does give a sense of satisfaction to those of us who were intimately involved in its preparation.

The preparation of the new Professional Biologists Regulation involved many participants. These included members of the ASPB Boards with particular mention of the team led by Jeannette Nixon in 1999 - 2000, Garry Hornbeck in 2000 - 2001 and Petr Komers in 2001 - 2002. Many ASPB committee members and members provided responses and attended information meetings. A number of external stakeholders provided support and worthwhile discussions. The helpful guidance of Lyn Johnson of Human Resources and Employment requires special mention. Lyn assisted the ASPB from the very beginning of the process until the final endorsement by the Alberta Government.

Thanks to everyone who helped.

Gavin More P. Biol.

EDMONTON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

EPDC is collaborating again with other professional organizations to increase the opportunity for networking and seminar awareness. A list of topics was chosen based on ASPB member suggestions (see box article). Once the topics were sorted through these were ranked and then suitable presenters were tracked down. Thanks to all members who have helped this year by providing feedback and ideas. Our seminars are better because of your input.

The EPDC survey offered an interesting point of view (see box article). A brief scan showed that members wanted to have the seminar events at the university and the west end.

The first seminar of the season -- Alberta's Water for Life presentation on September 24 -- resulted in a terrific turnout with 70 people attending. The topic was more of a draw than the juice and cookies provided by the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA). CWRA and the ASPB are partnering to help run events and recruit speakers. CWRA president, Robert Harrison, hopes that our joint efforts will increase seminar participation, widen networking opportunities for members and expand the number of new members that join our associations.

Robert Harrison delivered the first seminar on Alberta's Water for Life program.

The after-work seminars are being held in the Education Building at the University of Alberta on the last Tuesday of the month. We hope that the convenient location will encourage students to join our association, bringing energy and creativity with them. Thanks to the Water Resources Center, U of A for their support.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of seminar topics.

Stacey Schaub-Szabo P. Biol.

EDMONTON SEMINAR SCHEDULE

The Alberta Society of Professional Biologists has joined forces with the Canadian Water Resources Association to provide an exciting year of monthly seminars in 2002 and 2003. The topics and speakers confirmed are:

October 29th - Sustainable Resource Development -
Location: University of Alberta Education Building Room 129.
Speaker: Glenn Selland, Executive Director for SRD.

November 26th - Wetland Remediation -
Location: University of Alberta, Education Building Room 129 .
Speakers: Jonathan Thompson Senior Biologist, Ducks Unlimited Canada
Dr. Robert (Bob) Bailey, Environment & Resource Inc,

Note: Bob developed the guideline called "A Practical Framework for Applying Wetland Mitigation in Canada" for the North American Wetlands Conservation Council.

January 21st - Industry Water Users - Learning to share.

February and March - TBA.

Keep an eye on the ASPB bulletins and the web site (www.aspb.ab.ca) for updates on these seminar events and locations.

Please contact Stacey Schaub-Szabo at szabo@arc.ab.ca for additional information.

World Wolf Congress 2003

Call for Individual Papers and Posters

The World Wolf Congress 2003
- Bridging Science and Community

September 25-28, 2003

Hosted by The Central Rockies Wolf Project

The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta

The Central Rockies Wolf Project is inviting the world community to share scientific and community approaches to wolf management and conservation. This congress will bring together an international delegation of scientists, government agencies, various interest groups, and the general public to discuss wolf ecology and conservation.

We invite you to submit oral or poster abstract submissions for the World Wolf Congress 2003 - Bridging Science and Community. Abstract submissions must be received by March 15, 2003.

Addressing Climate Change

The Government of Canada has established two important conditions before deciding how Canada should meet its climate change commitments: First, there must be a workable plan, which does not ask any region of the country to bear an unreasonable burden. Second, such a plan must be developed in full consultation with provinces, territories, stakeholders and Canadians.

The Discussion Paper on Canada's Contribution to Addressing Climate Change is a step towards meeting those objectives. It explains what we know about climate change and what we have concluded. It presents four options for addressing Canada's climate change commitments and the analytical results that are currently available and seeks input on a number of key issues.

At the request of federal, provincial, territorial Ministers of Energy and Environment, a series of workshops were held in 14 cities across the country during June 7 - 14, 2002. The focus of these workshops was the Government of Canada Discussion Paper on Canada's Contribution to Addressing Climate Change. A Final Summary Report, which provides an overall summary of the key messages expressed, is available.

See http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/english/actions/what_are/canadascontribution/index.html for copies of the discussion paper and results of workshops.

CITES Convention

Canadian representatives are preparing for the 12th Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), scheduled for November 4-15 in Santiago, Chile.

This Conference is the decision-making body to the Convention, and will consider amendments to the CITES Appendices.

Under CITES, species that are threatened by international trade of their specimens or parts thereof are listed in three Appendices. Strict regulation of trade may apply especially for those species that are threatened with extinction. Several species at risk in Canada are listed under CITES Appendices, for different reasons.

The public is invited to participate in consultations that will lead to the Canadian positions for the Conference. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for October.

Learn more online at www.cites.ec.gc.ca.